



**KEEPING IT HONEST!:** Halton Hills Regional Police Officer Colin Vanden Tillaart pulled the winning number 46 in the 50/50 draw at the Leathertown Festival last Sunday for the Acton Seniors Recreational Centre Booth. John Lindsay was the winner. President Dave Dodgson helped by shaking up the numbers and holding the box. — Julie Conroy photo

## Tests confirm WNV in all four Halton municipalities

Nine batches of mosquitoes trapped by the Halton Region Health Department during the week of August 8 have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Six were from Oakville, two from Georgetown, and one from Milton.

The results represent the first WNV positive mosquitoes found in both Oakville and Halton Hills. The recent confirm that WNV has now been detected in all four Halton municipalities.

"The virus is going to continue to build in the mosquito population until the end of the season," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton Medical Officer of Health. "Therefore, the likelihood of mosquitoes passing on the virus to humans is increasing."

The risk of serious illness from WNV increases with increasing age. The Health Department is advising residents, especially older adults and elderly persons, to protect themselves against mosquito bites to reduce the risk of becoming infected with West Nile virus. From now until late September is the highest risk period for West Nile virus infection.

This year to date, no human cases of WNV have

been found in Halton.

In 2003, a local study found that 80% of people who had become infected with the virus had no symptoms. However, roughly 20% of people infected developed fever, headache, muscle aches, and rash. And, 1% of those infected became seriously ill with a neurological syndrome, which can include encephalitis (swelling of the brain), paralysis and difficulty with speech. The infection can be fatal in rare situations.

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water so to reduce breeding sites around your home:

- Drain any areas of standing water,
- Change the water in birdbaths and empty rain barrels weekly,
- Remove old tires and turn over pails, toys, and wheelbarrows, and
- Keep eavestroughs clear.

Information about WNV, as well as a map showing locations of WNV activity found in Halton, is available on Halton's website at [www.halton.ca/wnv](http://www.halton.ca/wnv).

To report a dead bird or standing water, please call Halton Region at 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), TTY 905-827-9833.

## Dead crow positive

A dead crow found between the hamlets of Kilbride and Lowville, in the area of Guelph Line and No. 8 Side Road has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), Halton Health Dept. reports.

"We have consistently found West Nile virus activity in Halton since 2001," said Dr. Monir Taha, associate medical officer of health for Halton Region. "So far this year we have seen activity in areas that are more rural and northerly than in past seasons, in which activity was greatest in the urban areas along Lake Ontario. However, the distribution of West Nile virus in Halton can change rapidly from week to week so all Halton residents need to take measures to avoid mosquito bites."

To date, there have been no human cases of WNV in Halton. As per past seasons, August and September are the months for greatest risk of human infections.



## ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

BY JULIE CONROY

The August 10 bid euchre saw Mae Milton as the only player with a mooner.

Wednesday, August 30 will be the date of the next monthly Rama trip. If you would like to go, or have to cancel, please let Ruth know, 519-853-5124.

A little more information on the Halton Region Health Department Influenza Clinic at the Acton Community Hall on Tuesday, November 28. It will be for Seniors and high priority individuals only. The clinics were very popular last year so the health department decided to run two clinics in Acton. The regular flu clinic date will be announced later.

When we are thinking of keeping healthy, there will be an information program offered on breast cancer detection, support, and treatments. This is open to everyone, and our speaker will be Ms. Blair Lancaster. It will be held on Tuesday, Sept 19 at 1:30p.m.

I hope you managed to enjoy the Leathertown Festival last Sunday. We met a lot of very interesting people at our booth, and heard a lot of stories. It was nice to see so many people who have recently moved to Acton, enjoying the festival as well as the people that had travelled quite a distance. There was great interest in the beautiful watercolour paintings, paper tole pictures, and carvings on display. The water colour classes will start up

again on Wednesday, September 13 at 9a.m.

The 50/50 draw at the festival was won by No. 46, John Lindsay. He won \$103. A lot of planning and effort goes into these occasions, and it's great to see everyone doing their bit to help, by volunteering or coming out and supporting the various events. The Town looked particularly beautiful this year, thanks to Josie and her helpers. Don't forget you can help, by picking up litter on the ground and putting it in the garbage containers.

The next Birthday Tea will be on September 12 when we celebrate birthdays occurring in August and September. This is during our week long Open House, when we invite anyone 55 or over to drop in and have a cup of coffee, and see what activities we offer at the Centre. As well as the tried and true ones that have been happening for quite a while, we are hoping to start a digital camera class in the fall. The "new" scrap booking and paper

tole have been very popular. We will be open everyday from Monday to Friday from 9a.m.-4p.m. with the exception of Wednesday afternoons when there are no events planned.

There is an evening event planned for Friday, September 15 to wind up the week. It will be members only, and is a chicken dinner. The entertainment will be an Italian folk dance group. Another reason to join the Centre.

Just a little note of interest of which some people might not be aware. The Acton Seniors Recreation Centre has charitable status as recognized by Revenue Canada. This means if you make a donation, you would receive an income tax receipt. Your donation could be a cash donation in memory of someone, or a gift in kind.

Paul Thompson, who spends many hours working around the Seniors Centre, was the winner of our weekly 50/50 draw this week. Congratulations on a well deserved win, Paul.

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